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BATTLE BEFORE METZ.

BAZAIN'S GREAT SORTIE.
DESPERATE EFFORT TO RAISE THE SIEGE—
FRENCH ADVANCE UNDER COVER OF A FOG
—MAGNIFICENT BATTERY OF THE LAND-
WEHR—THE FRENCH DRIVEN BACK AT THE
POINT OF THE BAYONET.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

LONDON, Thursday, Oct. 13, 1870.

The special correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at Metz sends a description of the battle of the 9th inst. as follows:

The engagement of to-day is the most important since Bazaine has made since the Prussians threw their belt of men, guns, and earthworks around the fortress of Metz. He had at least 50,000 men engaged in to-day's attempt; the Prussians had a considerably larger number. The morning was dull and misty. As I reached the eminence at Poix, I could barely see Mount St. Quentin above the fog in the valley, the sun's rays striking upon its warm gray peak. It seemed as if a general armistice had been declared. Even the outposts were at ease.

In the bombardment of the two previous days, the position occupied by the batteries of German heavy guns was at Freneourt, near the starting point of the rise of hills some distance to the south-west of Metz. To speak more precisely, they were stationed on the low hills of Meromont, beyond which stands an observatory which commands the whole plain. (Marange, the headquarters of the Prussian Third Army Corps, is considerably in the rear of this position.) These heavy guns, curiously enough, belong to the State of Hesse-Darmstadt. The Prussians pushed their batteries considerably beyond Freneourt; they had six field-batteries midway between it and Semécourt, and on the 6th they had passed forward a seventh battery as far as Semécourt itself.

DESTRUCTION OF LADONCHAMPS.

From the several positions the bombardment of Fort St. Eloy had been going on, and also a shell-fire into the village of Ladonchamps, some little distance from Metz than St. Remy, and on the line of railway. Till lately this village (Ladonchamps) had been considered "neutral territory;" but on the 2d inst. the French had seized it, and established a battery in front of it. The village itself was burned, the same night, by Prussian shells; but still the French retained the position, and the Prussian fire of the last few days had been partly directed to the dislodgement of the enemy from a position which was important, as the occupation of it could enfilade the whole front along the valley.

On the 6th, nearly 1,000 shells having been thrown into Ladonchamps and around it, late in the evening, the French had evacuated the shattered ruins of a once smiling village. The Prussians at once threw forward troops in the direction of the village, establishing their reserves in its rear, and sending forward regiments of cavalry to occupy it and the villages of Grand Estapes and Petit Estapes, to which its possession was the key. St. Remy constituting the chief support. There lay the 9th Regiment of the Landwehr, Maxe close to the river, and considerably in advance, was occupied by outposts sent forward from the Tenth Army Corps, on the other side of the Moselle.

The two divisions of the Landwehr stretched across the valley from the bridge at Argancy, where they touched the Tenth Army Corps, to near Marange, where they met the Fifth Army Corps; and to them was confided the duty of holding the flat, alluvial tract on the western bank of the Moselle.

THE OPENING FIRE.

At Maizieres I found the headquarters of Gen. Von Kummer, who commands the Landwehr. The men were generally housed in temporary barracks which they had themselves constructed, and which did great credit to their ingenuity. About 1 o'clock I was seated at lunch with two staff officers in an arbor in Gen. Von Kummer's garden, when the guns of the Prussian batteries by Semécourt began to be heard.

"It is only because there are a few Frenchmen hanging around Ladonchamps," observed one of the officers. "There will be nothing serious to-day; there is too much mist in the valley."

Certainly it seemed as though he must be right. When I was on the hills at Semécourt I could not see the villages in the valley below, and the cathedral of Metz, which, next to St. Quentin, is our constant landmark, was utterly invisible. But the roar of the guns grew louder and louder, and there came first one heavy "boom," and then another, from the big guns lying behind at Freneourt. The officers figured, but would not yet own that anything serious was taking place. Their nonchalance gave way at last, when an aid-de-camp came up at a gallop, spreading alarm everywhere as he went, and dashing on to the General's quarters for instructions to guide the front. In five minutes more we were all in the saddle, and after a short gallop were looking upon the scene of action from the fringe of the wood in front of the Chateau de Brieux and Amelange.

BAZAIN'S INTENTIONS.

To explain the tactics of Bazaine and the manner in which his undertaking was foiled, I give a brief description of the ground. From Metz to Maizieres there is a long trough with a flat bottom—the alluvial margin of the Moselle. This tract is about four miles wide. On the west it is bounded by the heights I have already named, and, nearer Metz, by Norville and Saulny. On the east it is bounded by a lower series of bluffs, on which stand the villages of Oley and Malroy; but between them and the flat bottom runs the Moselle, impinging considerably on the flat expanse. Just opposite Oley, across the bottom, at the narrowest part thus formed, lies a series of villages: the two Estapes and St. Remy, with Maxe and Ladonchamps, situated respectively a little to the east and west front.

There were Prussian troops in all these localities. Their dispositions, detailed to me by a staff officer, had been steadily maintained. Bazaine had laid his plan with great art. Covered by the fog he had made his dispositions with such adroitness that when it lifted, a little past 1 o'clock, they were already nearly complete. In the first instance he directed a strong assault on Ladonchamps. The Landwehr outpost held the place as if they were 10,000 instead of 100 men, and the French sent their infantry swarming into it, while their artillery played upon it.

Only an attempt to occupy Ladonchamps, "noth my friend of the staff as he fit a fresh cry. "The guns will teach them the folly of that—and we can go back to our arbor."

It certainly seemed that, if anything could convince the French of their imprudence, the Prussian artillery might. The white puffs of smoke were visible all around the valley. On the right front the batteries at Semécourt were hard at work, and also others nearer, down the flat; while the great guns at Freneourt were sending shells at a low range right over Ladonchamps across the advancing French. Then on our left, at Amelange, two other batteries were maintaining a semi-cross fire; and from the bluffs on the other side of the Moselle, between Oley and Malroy, the Prussian field artillery was roaring.

THE FRENCH ENTER THE VILLAGES.

But my friend of the staff was not to see the arbor for an hour or two. The attack on Ladonchamps was a diversion. Suddenly the villages of Grand and Petit Estapes, which were the key to the French advance, were taken. The French entered the villages of Grand and Petit Estapes, and the Prussian batteries at Freneourt were sending shells at a low range right over Ladonchamps across the advancing French. Then on our left, at Amelange, two other batteries were maintaining a semi-cross fire; and from the bluffs on the other side of the Moselle, between Oley and Malroy, the Prussian field artillery was roaring.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

NEW NAPOLEONIC INTRIGUE.

THE SECRET OF BOURBANKI'S VISIT TO EUGENIE—SHE WISHED TO SEND THE PRINCE IMPERIAL TO METZ—HER HOPES OF A REGENCY—BAZAIN EXPOSES THE INTRIGUE TO THE TOURS GOVERNMENT.

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"The Empress, in connivance with the Emperor and Bismarck, sent a messenger to Metz, saying she desired to confer with a trusty general on an affair of great importance. Marshal Bazaine, though not liking to part with a general whose mission he was not allowed to know, was so pressed by the messenger, who gave undoubted proof of his being sent by the Empress, that he was persuaded to send Bourbaki. Canrobert, who was for a moment thought of, had his leg hurt, which prevented him from traveling.

"When Bourbaki, who, armed with Bismarck's pass, got through the Prussian lines without difficulty, arrived at Chiselhurst, the Empress thanked him most earnestly for coming, and proceeded to say that she wanted him to take charge of the Prince Imperial, conduct him to Metz, let him remain with Bazaine's army until the time came for completing an arrangement for peace on the basis of the cession of Alsace and Lorraine, the abdication of the Emperor, and the restoration of the dynasty in the person of Napoleon IV., with himself as Regent.

"Bourbaki was thunderstruck at this proposal. He expostulated mildly for some time, endeavoring in vain to make the Empress understand the real position of affairs. But when he found her illusion could not be dispelled, he bluntly refused the mission she sought to impose upon him, and told her plainly that no French army would tolerate the presence of the son of Napoleon III. The Empress burst into tears.

"Bourbaki returned to Metz. Bazaine, highly indignant at his report, sent this strange story to the Republican Government at Tours. It is highly probable that the letter which the Empress some time ago commissioned Lady Cowley to take to the Emperor at Wilhelmshöhe had reference to this affair. The intrigue originally failed, and is now completely exposed."

LATEST MILITARY OPERATIONS.

NO FURTHER NEWS FROM ORLEANS—PRUSSIAN OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BATTLE OF TUBS—A FRENCH SUCCESS CLAIMED AT BRUYERES.

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A telegram from Tours, dated October 12, midnight, states that no further news had been received from Orleans or Chateaufort, whither the reinforcements were sent last evening. Much anxiety is manifested, as it is known the Germans were in heavy force in that neighborhood.

The Prussians occupied Orleans yesterday. A French Corps was encamped on the left bank of the river.

A dispatch from the Prussian headquarters at Versailles states that the French Army of the Loire were driven out of Orleans after a nine hours' fight. Orleans was subsequently stormed. The Prussians took upward of 10,000 prisoners. Their loss was small. The Bavarians participated in the engagement.

An engagement occurred on Monday, the 10th, near Bruyeres, between a body of Franco-tireur and the Prussians. After a short conflict, the latter retired with a loss of 30 killed and wounded. The French loss is not stated.

An engagement took place on the 11th, between the Prussians and French at Messange. The latter were defeated and compelled to abandon the place. A corps of Franco-tireur left Lyons yesterday for the seat of operations on the Loire.

An engagement occurred at Montargis yesterday, between the Uhlans and the Hussars. No result is given. A force of 800 Prussians and 500 Saxons has already occupied Gisors.

The Germans have also appeared at Montdidier, where a small detachment of them was defeated by the Franco-tireur.

A telegram from Arzon, Belgium, dated last evening, says: "Heavy cannonading has been heard to-day in the direction of Thionville. It is said the garrison of Montmedy has retreated to Stenay."

On Monday a Prussian cavalry division drove 4,000 Mobiles across the Eure near Cherisy. The losses of the latter were heavy.

It is known that Gen. Garibaldi has left Tours in company with Col. Frappin for the seat of war. The exact destination has not been divulged, but it is intimated he will take command at Orleans.

The Prussians have burned the town of Ables, in revenge for the defeat suffered at the hands of the Franco-tireur. A Prussian demonstration is making toward Amiens, and Breteuil has been occupied by them.

A dispatch from Berlin dated yesterday states that the obstacles to the conveyance and planting of siege guns have been so far overcome that the cannonade before Paris may be momentarily expected.

GENERAL FRENCH NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER BALLOON FROM PARIS—THE NEW FRENCH COAT OF ARMS—TERRIBLE RAVAGES OF THE RINDERPEST AT METZ.

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A balloon from Paris descended at Tournay to-day. The navigator, M. Carlot, had much difficulty in alighting. The news from Paris is most cheering. The popular order is unbounded. The soldiers are anxiously awaiting the Prussian attack, and have no doubt of their ability to withstand it. Perfect order reigns everywhere. The confidence in Gen. Trochu seems to be limitless. Everybody is quick, firm, and courageous. A Paris letter printed in the Constitutionnel to-day says the word "peace" is tabooed in Paris. Everybody is casting cannon, making mitrailleuses, and constructing pontoons. Enough of the latter have been constructed to bridge the Atlantic Ocean.

The new French coat-of-arms has made its appearance. It consists of a figure of Liberty, with the legend, "In the name of the French people." On the reverse is a garland of mixed oak and olive, with a wheat-ear in the center. There is also the inscription, "Republique Française Démocratique. Une et Indivisible." Around the periphery are the words, "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité."

It is reported that the cattle in and around Metz are dying by hundreds from the rinderpest. The bodies cannot be buried quick enough to prevent epidemic. Notwithstanding severe frosts have occurred the disease is spreading rapidly.

The French International Ambulances have been disbanded, and those organized by the members of the French press now will be.

The official decree appointing Gen. Anré de Paladine to the command of the army of the Loire in place of Gen. La Mottergue is published to-day.

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